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# Fort Riley Community

August 23, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

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Nova Brooks reads to her kindergarten class at Morris Hill Elementary School on the first day of school.

## Back to school

School year brings excitement, challenges

By Steven Cooke  
Staff Writer

Fort Riley kicked off the new school year Aug. 19 and excitement was the word of the day.

Teachers and school administrators said they were excited to start the school year and the children were excited, too.

"[The first day] was wonderful. We're excited to have a whole new group of smart cookies," said Anita Rogge, 1st grade teacher, Morris Hill Elementary School. "I'm really excited. I look forward to this."

"Always an exciting time for us," said Greg Lumb, principal, Morris Hill Elementary School. "It's been a good morning. Everything is running quite smoothly; kids are full of energy and are excited."

"It's been a smooth and exciting morning," said Becky Lay, principal, Fort Riley Elementary School. "Teachers are eager to start. They've been planning for over the summer for the school year to start."

"I'm very excited. Looking forward to a new group students," said Gloria Yates, 6th grade teacher, Fort Riley Middle School. "The students are very excited. Some are brand new; never been in a middle school before."

Most kids were excited to start a new school year, but some had reservations.

"Some are nervous not knowing who's in their

classroom or what their teachers were expecting from them," said Lay.

"Some of the kids were a little anxious," said Susan O'Neill, 4th grade teacher, Fort Riley Elementary School. "Some of them had never ridden a school bus before."

With the new school year, comes new expectations and goals.

"This year, as a staff, we're really going to focus on reading comprehension skills," said Lumb.

"I have high expectations for kids and teachers," said Lay. "We'll be focusing on math, reading and writing with an emphasis on reading."

"We're going to place an emphasis on reading," said Terry Heina, assistant to the principal, Fort Riley Middle School.

The schools will use different approaches to achieve their goals.

"We'll use several strategies," said Lumb. "Vocabulary growth, a strategy for language fluency and specific comprehension strategies."

"We've started a new reading program called Read, Connect, Achieve," said Heina. "The program will meet twice a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays."

With all the schools' excitement and plans to achieve certain goals, a very integral part of the student's success will come from their parents and com-

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Sixth graders Kimberly Arps, 11, and Charlene Stewart, 11 rush to get their books out of their lockers so they are not late for classes on the first day of school.

## Camp Funston commemorates 85 years

By Emily O'Connor  
K-State Intern

Fort Riley recently hosted Operation Hickory Sting, an exercise for members of the North Carolina National Guard, to prepare them for their upcoming rotation to the National Training Center. For people entering Fort Riley through the Ogden gate during the exercise, the presence of thousands of soldiers filling Camp Funston with their equipment and supplies will not soon be forgotten.

While Camp Funston served Operation Hickory Sting as a deployment and redeployment platform in 2002, it was originally established in 1917 as a training center for troops preparing to deploy to France to fight in World War I.

"Since the old historic Main Post didn't really have a lot of space for that huge of a troop cantonment area, it was decided to establish a camp east of Main Post," said Scott Price, Fort Riley community relations officer. Price said that a man by the name of Stan-

ley Olney, who died at Funston during an influenza outbreak there, wrote that he had been told 60,000 soldiers trained at Camp Funston and approximately one-third of them were black.

"Funston was the hub of all training in the Midwest for World War I," Price said. "We trained the 89th Division and the 10th Division. The units that were trained at Camp Funston, especially the 89th Division, went on to acquit themselves well in the Great War."

Although Camp Funston was named after the United States' premiere soldier at the time, its namesake was never actually assigned to Fort Riley. Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, born in Ohio and raised in Iola, Kan. His military career began in 1898 when, according to Price, he was recruited into the Cuban Revolutionary Army in Cuban's rebellion against Spain. Funston locked himself in an attic in New York City for two weeks with books and a toy cannon and taught himself enough about artillery that he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the Revolutionary Artillery. Funston eventually commanded the 20th

Kansas Infantry in the Philippines during the Insurrection, according to Price. "In 1899, Funston was offered command of the 20th Kansas Infantry," Price said. "Funston came back from fighting in the Insurrection as a national hero, having won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his services there."

But probably the greatest service Frederick Funston rendered to the United States was his personal supervision of the relief efforts for the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Price said. "He was in command of the district that San Francisco lay in at the time."

"It was widely considered that Funston would lead any American Army against any enemy in World War I, should we be brought into that conflict," Price said. "However, in 1917 in Dallas, Texas, he had a massive coronary and died."

"Camp Funston was named in his honor because, one, he was such a national hero and secondly, because we here in Kansas claimed him as a native son," Price said. "We honor a lot of people here for their service to the country."



Photo courtesy of the US Cavalry Museum

This is Camp Funston around 1919. The camp, named after Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, was the hub of all training in the Midwest for World War I.

## Apple Day, Open House plans well underway

By Lillian Flegle  
Staff Writer

Fort Riley's Fall Open House and Apple Day festivities on Sept. 28 at Cavalry Parade Field begin the post's commemoration of its 150th anniversary. In keeping with Fort Riley's theme, "When the Past Meets the Present," activities will include historic exhibits, a veterans' tent, an exposition center as well as modern day tactical training activities.

According to Scott Price, community relations officer and area historian, Fort Riley was established nearly 150 years ago and dubbed Camp Center because it was believed to be near the center of the United States. In June 1853, the camp was renamed in honor of Brevet Major General Bennett C. Riley, U.S. Army. According to Price, Fort Riley has come a long way.

"Fort Riley went from being a miserable frontier outpost with buildings made of dilapidated cottonwood trees to one of the premiere Army posts of the 21st century," Price said. "Today, it's a power projection platform and training facility second to none. We have 71,000-plus acres of maneuver area that's so sturdy there's nothing an M1A1 Abrams tank can do to the grounds that the Nebraska Bison herd hasn't already done back in the 1800s -- and the prairie just keeps bouncing back."

Price believes the Fall Open House and Apple Day is an excellent way to showcase Fort Riley as a strong, viable military post with a progressive look at Fort Riley's history through to present day.

To whet appetites with a taste of the past, leading up to the Fall Open House/Apple Day activities, the 937th Engineer Group and Medical Department Activities are hosting a "Wild West Night" on Sept. 26, from 6 p.m. until midnight at Riley's Conference Center. According to Capt. Robin Farmer-Inthavongsa, chemical officer, 937th Engineer Group, festivities will include grub from the chuck wagon, skits by outlaws, cattlemen, muleskinners and buckaroos with a silent, as well as a live, auction.

"This is a welcome party with a western theme," said Farmer-Inthavongsa, "a night of fellowship, friendship and fun, which brings members of Fort Riley and their guests together."

Brad Carlton, chief, garrison operations, explained that this year's event will take off on the historical background of Fort Riley and build up to the mechanized force of today. Another goal

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## Local girl competes in regional competition

By Jamie Bender  
Staff writer

A Fort Riley youth placed second in the regional Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Fitness Authority Regional Competition in St. Louis, Mo., July 27.

Asia Smith, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Smith and Sgt. 1st Class Jayne Smith, was selected by BGCA out of 20,000 kids in this region to go to the competition, said Latonya Manigault, Asia's coach and program assistant at the Child and Youth Services Center.

The CYS holds a competition every year, said Manigault. Booths are set up with the different events and a program assistant records the scores of each child. Then the scores are sent to BGCA and they choose a winner from each of the 30 different regions. "She is the first one from Fort Riley ever to get to go," said Manigault. "She has very involved parents. They are very supportive of her."

"We are a military family and physical fitness has always been a part of our lives," Jessie Smith said. "She has always worked out with us."

Asia's parents helped her train for the competition. "My mom ran with me, and I worked out

with my dad," Asia said.

The kids were awarded points for each event. The points varied from 25 points per quarter inch jumped in the standing long jump to 100 points per push up. Because the events were weighed differently, Asia took second place in the competition even though she won four out of the seven events, said Smith. In the standing long jump she reached 70.75 inches for her best jump. In the lateral hop event, she jumped 92 times, and she completed 198 jumps in the jump rope event. She did 35 push-ups in one minute and 43 sit-ups in one minute.

Asia completed the 100-yard dash in less than 16 seconds and the half-mile run in just over three minutes. Her total score was 28,202.

"The easiest event was the long jump," said Asia. Smith said she was sure that the half-mile run was the easiest for her since she talked all the way through it.

Sports competition runs in the Smith family. "I ran the 880 in college and I was so proud to see my daughter win that event. It was even on my birthday," said Smith.

This was Asia's first experience in individual competition, Smith said. She has usually been involved with team sports like

basketball and soccer, he said. "It was a good experience for her. The event was put together very well and it was run very professionally. They were treated like young Olympic stars," he added.

"The best part was meeting so many other people," Asia said.

The transportation and accommodations were paid for by the

BGCA, said Manigault.

"The hotel was beautiful and the food was great," said Asia. Asia plans to join the volleyball team and the basketball team next year in school, she said.

She has plans to go to college and become a veterinarian. Joining the WNBA is also among her list of plans for the future.



Asia Smith practices sit-ups with her coach, Latonya Manigault, program assistant at the Child and Youth Services Center. Smith completed 43 sit-ups in one minute at the BGCA Fitness Authority Regional Competition.

## Civilians visit post

By Jamie Bender  
Staff writer

The Manhattan Military Affairs Committee meeting was hosted by Fort Riley at the Devil's Den Dining Facility Aug. 15.

Senator Sam Brownback was

State University, said the training facility was impressive. "I can certainly understand the skill it takes to operate the actual machines," Hayter stated.

Civilians sometimes do not realize the training that goes into doing what the Army does. Visits to Fort Riley by various

in attendance and spoke about how he hopes to help return the Big Red One flag back to Fort Riley.

After eating lunch, the members went to the Close Combat Technical Training building where they experienced operating HUMVEE, Bradley and Abrams tank simulators.

Joy Winingham, Holiday Inn senior catering manager, said the simulators were "awesome. They were very difficult to work. I can see that lots of training would be required to run one of these in real life."

Richard Hayter, assistant dean of engineering at Kansas

g r o u p s helps to bring some understanding of Army operations though. "It made me realize how soldiers can do their jobs," said Sydney

Carlin, former mayor of Manhattan.

"It's easy to see how they can get into the spirit of it. It is very realistic," she said.

"I feel more secure knowing that this kind of training is available to our soldiers," said Debra Butler of the Manhattan area Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Jepsen said the simulators were very interesting. "It's good training, and it's pretty realistic."

"I feel more secure knowing that this kind of training is available to our soldiers."

—Debra Butler, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

## West Nile in Kansas, still not detected on Fort Riley

By Lori Bultman  
Editor

West Nile virus has spread across the country to include the entire eastern half of the United States. In addition to the eight human deaths in Louisiana due to the virus, Mississippi has now had two deaths and Illinois has had one, bringing the human death toll to 11 as of Aug. 19.

The human infection total, as of Aug. 19, has reached 251, with most of those cases being in Louisiana, with 147 and Mississippi, with 55.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment confirmed Aug. 15 the presence of

West Nile virus in dead birds found in eight counties and horses in four counties. The dead birds (crows or jays) were from Douglas, Johnson, McPherson, Republic, Sedgewick, Shawnee, Reno and Wyandotte counties. The four horses were from Cowley, Meade, Ottawa and Rice counties.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, and can infect people, horses, many types of birds and some other animals. Most people who become infected with West Nile virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. On rare occasions,

West Nile virus infection can result in a severe and sometimes fatal illness known as West Nile encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. The risk of severe disease is higher for persons 50 years of age and older.

The four horses were from Cowley, Meade, Ottawa and Rice counties. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, and can infect people, horses, many types of birds and some other animals. Most people who become infected with West Nile virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. On rare occasions,

weakness, paralysis and sometimes, but rarely, death. Anyone with these symptoms, regardless of age or general health, should see a doctor to be checked.

Mosquito control and personal protection are the best defense against West Nile Virus. KDHE recommends avoiding mosquito contact by wearing long sleeves and pants and using an insect repellent containing DEET. Outdoor activities at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active, should be avoided. People should check for standing water around their homes and empty any containers holding water such as tires, birdbaths and buckets to minimize mosquito egg laying

habitat. "Mosquitoes like to rest in tall grass and weeds," said Bill Wildman, Environmental Health, Irwin Army Community Hospital.

"Keeping lawns mowed eliminates that resting area." The virus, although in Kansas, has not shown up locally, yet. "We still haven't found any West Nile virus on Fort Riley (as of Aug. 20)," said John Barbur, Director of Environment and Safety. For current information on West Nile virus as it relates to Kansas, visit the Kansas State University, Research and Extension website at [http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/west-nilevirus/current\\_info.htm](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/west-nilevirus/current_info.htm)

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munity. "Parents will assist in a variety of ways, such as tutoring or helping in the classroom," said Lay. "We've made it a real community atmosphere not only in the classroom but in the building, too, with Parent Teachers Association and Site Council."

"We've always had parents actively involved," said Lumb, "a lot of volunteers in the classrooms and in evening activities."

"If we're going to be successful with every child, we need to continue to work with parents and the community," said Lumb. "We've scheduled eight nights when we'll invite parents to come and learn more about their child's curriculum and how to help them."

Another area where parental involvement in the classroom is important is in the area of diversity.

"There is a whole lot more diversity in the classroom, which is really exciting," said Rogge. "We recruit parents to come in and read a book in their native language and then in English to show each culture is valued."

The start of a new school year can mean different things to different people. A fresh exciting new start, euphoria because the kids are out of the house or even frustration because the speed limit

is back to 20 miles per hour when you're trying to get to work in the morning. No matter what, it's always a challenge.

"We welcome the challenges," said Rogge. "Every year is a

brand new experience we get to put all our prior experiences together to meet the needs of the student. Doing what it takes to increase the child's knowledge, even beyond what they expected."

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of the combined event is to introduce new soldiers and their families to what Fort Riley has to offer, not only in the way of military training and family support, but to share its rich heritage as well.

"We thought September would be a good time to have an expo center to show soldiers and their families in a one-stop shop all the different programs and activities Fort Riley has to offer," said Carlton. "With the different venues that are going to take place, not only the historic piece, but military attractions for kids and adults alike, we hope to show what our capabilities are in taking care of our soldiers and their families."

The expo center will be the focal point of the day's activities, with interactive booths set up on Cavalry Parade Field, a veterans' tent surrounded by historic vehicles, with military and historic displays and activities located all across the grounds," Carlton explained. He added that local communities will have booths in the expo center to showcase attractions available in the surrounding areas of Junction City, Manhattan and Abilene.

"We'll have a lot of the same attractions that were at the summer open house — things like weapons firing at Tuttle Park, an obstacle course at Sturgis Field and an "Own the Night" night vision course at King Field House," Carlton said. "There will also be MP/K-9 demonstrations and Explosive Ordnance Detachment demonstrations. We're hoping the recruiters will bring their climbing wall and inflatable obstacle course back since it was such a hit in the past."

"Most activities will run on a continuous cycle so folks will be able to see and do everything," Carlton continued. "It will be set up with the historic displays on the parade field. The Apple Day ladies will be on the historic side of the festivities with apple pie sales at the Custer House and homemade cider from a cider press, along with re-enactors and historic exhibits."

Rachelle Boslego, president, Historical and Archeological Society, Fort Riley, explained that the new cooperative effort between with G3, garrison operations and HASFR has a lot of benefits and offers cooperation that was not available in the past. She feels that the cooperative effort makes Apple Day a bigger and better event.

"We're doing our part historically to fit into the big picture of Fort Riley's theme, "When the Past Meets the Present," said Boslego. "We love the new cooperative effort between the post and historical society."

As part of the cooperative effort between the two entities, the HASFR has a once-a-year fund raising event, which is Apple Day. The society makes 1,000 apple pies. They pre-sell 900 frozen pies and bake the remaining 100 for sale at the Custer House the day of the event.

Boslego said they have a shortage of pie makers and encourages anyone to volunteer. She invites those interested in making pies to call 784-6670. She also explained that people wanting to pre-order pies, may call 717-3263.

Boslego said people can enjoy pie by the slice and a-la-mode along with homemade pressed

cider. "You'll find these delicious treats at the Custer House," she said. "The funds raised are used to benefit Fort Riley, help with membership and for historic activities."

According to Barbara Brinkley, vice-president of the HASFR, "We want to transform people, in their mind's eye, back to historic Fort Riley and give folks a peek into how the soldiers lived and what they dealt with," she said. "We're bringing in Civil War re-enactors, such as Wild Bill Hickok, and crafters such as basket weavers, candle makers, a blacksmith, square dancers and folk singers."

THE OUTLET  
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# Fort Riley Sports

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## Football season soon underway

By Lori Bultman  
Editor

The Letter of Intent period is over for signing up for this year's Fort Riley football season. Schedules will be out on Monday and play will begin the week of Sept. 3, said Barry Sunstrom, Fort Riley's Intramural coordinator.

The football season runs two months, September and October, and teams will play an average of one game a week throughout the season, said Sunstrom. "There are 24 teams signed up as of today," Sunstrom said on Thursday. "There will be three leagues, with eight teams in each league."

Teams will average one game a week, but due to the field commitments of some units, they will have to play multiple games some weeks to complete their game schedule, Sunstrom said. "Say a unit is going into the field the end of October, they will have to finish the season prior to going."

Sunstrom said this is why it is so important that the Letter of Intent turned in to him is filled out with accurate information concerning field problems.

Fort Riley flag football has a unique twist.

"We adapted our flag football from a type that Kansas State plays in their intramural program," Sunstrom said. "At K-State, they play in a way as to avoid a lot of injuries."

"In the old days, we had a lot of injuries from flag football here on Fort Riley. The players were trying to play like they did in high school or college. Now, the players are allowed to throw two forward passes during each play. This requires more speed and

finesse as opposed to strength." According to Sunstrom, the two forward passes make the defense stay spread out, and it keeps players from converging on the football. "We found that playing by the old rules of one forward pass, we tended to have more injuries around the football," he said.

Sunstrom said Fort Riley teams have been playing by the new rules for six or seven years now, and overall, most players like it once they have the mindset for the new rules. "Some have a hard time adapting to the second pass, especially if they played football a lot before," Sunstrom said.

Women are also eligible to play on company teams, Sunstrom said. And if there are enough women in a battalion interested in playing, he said he would create a Women's Battalion League. Women can play on any team, though, he said. "They have played on company teams in the past."

Sunstrom expects an exciting season. Last year, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, beat 331st Signal, 20-8, for the post championship. This year, 3rd Brigade already has their Letter of Intent in, but 331st Signal has not signed up yet.

It is not too late to get involved in this year's season, Sunstrom said. Once the schedules are made, if a team signs up late, they go on a standby list. If a team drops out, the standby teams go into the existing schedule, he said. "As a rule, they get the record of the team that left," Sunstrom said that teams would be dropped from play after they miss two games and another team will be put in their place.

"We can not keep paying offi-



Sgt. Jason Shepherd, 19th Public Affairs Detachment, looks for a receiver down field during practice this week.

cials for games that are not played," he said.

Games will be played on Strugis Field and on Field 7 on Custer Hill. The schedule will list game times and locations.

Sunstrom said the schedule will be released on Monday, and can be picked up at the sports office in King Field House. For more information, contact Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

## Softball Standings as of Aug. 19

	Wins	Losses
<b>Northern League</b>		
HHC, 2-34 AR	8	2
A, 2-34 AR	6	3
B, 2-34 AR	5	4
C, 2-34 AR	5	3
B, 1-5 FA	4	2
D, 1-5 FA	4	2
HHC, 1-34 AR	3	5
A, 1-5 FA	3	3
C, 1-34 AR	2	7
SVC, 1-5 FA	2	4
HHC, 1-5 FA	1	2
B, 1-34 AR	0	8
<b>Southern League</b>		
331 Signal	10	0
C, 4-3 ADA	8	2
HHC, 1st BDE	8	2
B, 1st EN	6	3
A, 1st EN	5	5
C, 1st EN	5	5
HHC, 1st EN	3	6
B, 101st FSB	2	8
HHC, 1-16	1	9
B, 2-70 AR	0	9
C, 1-16	0	9

### Eastern League

596 Signal	10	1
C, 70 EN	8	3
HHC, 2-70 AR	8	2
HHC, 4-1 FA	7	5
HHC, 1-13 AR	7	5
C, 4-1 FA	5	5
HHC, 3rd BDE	4	6
B, 4-1 FA	4	6
B, 1-13 AR	3	7
A, 2-70 AR	3	7
A, 70 EN	3	7
HHC, 70 EN	1	9
H TRP, 1 CAV	0	7

### Western League

568 CSE	10	1
523rd MP	10	1
82nd Medical	8	3
MEDDAC	7	4
HHC, 937 EN	6	2
HHC, 24 ID	6	2
977 MP	5	6
1st Maintenance	3	5
10th ASOS	2	9
172nd Chemical	1	7
1st Finance	1	7
1st PSB	0	10

### Battalion League

924 MP	14	4
2-34 AR	12	5
HHC, 24 ID	11	5
1-5 FA	9	1
1-34 AR	7	9
541st	7	9
4-1 FA	5	7
1-16 INF	4	14
MEDDAC	4	10
101st FSB	0	18

### Woman's League

Acacia #91 Champs	12	0
Ada's Hair Biz	6	6
Envision Base	4	6
101st FSB	4	5
HHC, 24 ID	0	9

## Battalion, Women's League titles handed out

By Kevin Doheny  
19th PAD

There were two champions crowned at the softball complex Sunday as both the Men's Battalion Level and Women's Battalion Tournaments swung into action.

The tournament was scheduled for Saturday and was delayed due to rain.

The Bulldogs of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, outlasted the competition to win the Men's Bat-

talion Level Tournament Championship.

The 'Dawgs defeated the 924th Military Police Battalion, 11-7, in the championship game.

On the way to victory Sunday, the 'Dawgs stayed unbeaten and had the luxury of staying out of the loser's bracket. They had the cushion in the final match up of being able to lose a game and still have the chance for the title. Needless to say, all was thrown when they defeat the MPs in the first game.

On the way to the title, they defeated some of the best teams on post, 924th and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division, who finished second during Trooper Week and won two of the tournaments played at the softball complex this summer.

In the women's bracket, Acacia #91 Champs sliced right through the bracket as they defeated all who stepped on to the field.

They won the four-team bracket-

et by also staying out of the loser's bracket, and not having to play extra games.

The games Acacia won were close, all three decided by two runs or less, but proved they were the champions on Sunday.

The Men's Company Level Tournament starts tonight, and as the 25-team bracket dwindles down, there will be another championship crown.

The action will begin at 6 p.m. tonight at the softball complex.

## Sports USA gets new name, diversifies programs

By Chad Baldwin  
DCA Marketing Chief

A new name, Rally Point, an expanded dance floor and an area to host private functions are just a few of the changes that patrons can expect to see at the former Sports USA.

Besides the interior renovations at Rally Point, the Fort Riley community can also expect to see changes in programming. Rally Point will offer diversified programs Wednesday - Sunday.

Jim Rose, acting chief of business operations for the Directorate of Community Activities said, "Sports USA is a franchise operation where the programming is very structured and doesn't have the flexibility the Fort Riley Community desires."

Rose said that pulling out from underneath the Army branded theme operation known as Sports USA will give the DCA flexibility to change programs as necessary to meet the ever changing desires of the community.

One such change has come on

Saturday nights, "Troopers Night."

Rose said, "Saturday night is an example of a program that did not meet the Sports USA format. Each Saturday night we average 500 individuals. It is a program that has been very successful in meeting the needs of the Fort Riley Soldiers."

Rally Point is also going to offer karaoke, Family Night, high-energy variety dance mix and the NFL Ticket.

Rose said that he has a desire to establish a food, beverage and

entertainment program to meet the need of the community and to be the number one destination for Fort Riley and the outlying areas.

The name, Rally Point, was chosen from over 150 suggestions submitted in a "Name the Club" contest held by the DCA. A DCA panel, consisting of soldiers and civilians, selected five names to present to the command. Wendell Conyers, a civilian with the Directorate of Contracting, was the first to submit the Rally Point name.

## Skunks at Fort Riley abundant, easily identified, need no introduction

By Alan Hynke  
DES Biologist

There is one species of wildlife on Fort Riley that needs no introduction. The striped skunk is probably the most recognizable mammal in North America. They are a member of the weasel family, which is known for cunning and power. The skunk however, employs the unique defense of aroma warfare.

The striped skunk can be found throughout the state, but is more abundant in the east. They can be found in a variety of habitats, preferring the forest edge and rocky hillside. Breeding occurs in late February and early March. Litters range from four to 11, with the

kittens being sparsely haired with their eyes and ears closed. Skunks range can be over an area of about a mile, if food is adequate. They can also become highly mobile if habitat or food becomes scarce, often traveling several miles in search of a new home.

The color markings for striped skunks are quite variable. The stripes may be wide or narrow, with additional white coloration. Some are nearly all white, while others are nearly all black. Most on Fort Riley tend to have dark stripes on the hind feet and belly.

Skunks are truly omnivorous, meaning they will eat just about anything. In fact, they are quite beneficial in that a majority of

their diet consists of insects. They are said to be particularly fond of grasshoppers. Skunks are also known to eat mice, birds, frogs, crayfish, spiders, earthworms, wild fruits and berries. Believe it or not, striped skunks do have

enemies in the wild. Coyotes, badgers, bobcats and especially great horned owls are all natural predators of skunks.

Skunks are best known for their ability to spray when threatened. The musk is stored in glands and can be sprayed to a distance of four meters. The glands have musk for five to six

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spraying. Most will just try and escape rather than spray. One myth is that they spray frequently, when in fact some skunks may not even spray during their lifetime. Fortunately, skunks usually give plenty of warning prior to spraying. Most will growl, hiss and stomp their feet or even stand on their back or front feet to display larger than they are. Spraying is usually their last line of defense. The skunk will turn in a shield fashion with both head and tail facing the direction of the enemy. Although most people know what a skunk smells like, most do not realize the liquid is

also extremely noxious, and can cause nausea and temporary loss of vision. However, like porcupines, skunks appear to be overconfident of their defense mechanisms, resulting in mortality near roadways.

The spotted skunk is rare enough in Kansas that it is considered a state threatened species. The spotted skunk is about half the size of its striped cousin. It is also more slender with a shorter tail. As the name implies, spotted skunks do not have stripes, but rather four to six broken lines from the back of the neck to the base of the tail. The pattern of spots varies enough that they can be used to identify certain individuals.

Like skunks, the other members of the weasel (Mustelidae) family, badgers, otters, ferrets and weasels, are known for their fascinating habits. The badger is of course known for its power, tenacity and irritable temperament. Weasels and ferrets are the most cunning of wildlife and are quite tenacious. Skunks, on the other hand, are mostly phlegmatic animals. They seem to be aware that they have the most intimidating of weapons.

For more information on skunks or any other wildlife, contact the Conservation Division, 239-6211 or visit us on the web at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/ NatResources/>





Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



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Fort Riley Post

## Commentary

### Strike may damage record-breaking seasons

By Kevin Doheny  
19th PAD

The Major League Players Union announced last week that they agreed on a possible strike date for Aug. 31, if their needs are not met in upcoming labor talks with the owners.

As with the strike in 1994, some of the players eyeing their chance to write themselves into the record books might not get the opportunity.

As talks between the players union and the owners loom large in the background, some of the game's biggest and brightest stars are giving baseball fans a show while they play ball.

Over the weekend, Alex Rodriguez hit his sixth home run in three games, and matched a record set by Tony Lazzari in 1936, Gus Zernial in 1951 and Manny Ramirez in 1998.

Rodriguez continues to blaze American League pitching, and

on the way passed Sammy Sosa for the ML lead in homers. After signing a record-breaking 252-million dollar contract before the 2001 season, Rodriguez was teased by the fans and media. They all were wondering if someone could be worth that much, but all he has done in the last two years is hit homerun after homerun, and drive in run after run, and in 2002 he has a 323 batting average, 44 homeruns and 110 RBIs.

Another player not looking forward to a possible strike is fireballer Curt Shilling. Shilling is vying to become the first player in the modern era to have more wins than walks allowed. To date, Schilling has 20 wins and has allowed an astonishing 19 walks in 201 innings. Also, there have been talks of him possibly winning 30 games this year, although highly unlikely with him possibly only having a chance to start 8-10 more times. You can't pitch if there aren't any games.

Not only are there records players are trying to break, but also there have been records, which have already fallen, and players who have had astonishing seasons so far.

Yankees' second baseman Alfonso Soriano has busted onto the scene and has put up numbers, which just might win him the American and Major League MVP awards. Soriano has joined the 30 homerun-30 stolen bases club, and if there is no strike, then he'll shoot for the 40-40 club.

The Boston Red Sox have played well enough to finally give the Yankees a run for their money in the AL East, and the reason is the re-emergence of former closer and starter Derek Lowe. Lowe, who is tied for the AL lead in victories with 17, has been the Red Sox go-to guy. When Pedro Martinez went down earlier this year, Lowe stepped-up and kept his team in the AL East-race. If they get a chance in September, then

maybe the Sox can finally get the "Curse of the Bambino," and the Yankee monkey, off their backs.

There are too many players to mention, and there has been some great baseball this year. Between Barry Bond's 600th homerun, Jeremy Giambi's Homerun Derby explosion, the Minnesota Twins march to the playoffs despite their payroll and Cliff Floyd's wild ride near the trading deadline in his Florida to Montreal to Boston switch.

Without baseball, these guys can't show their stuff. The 1994 strike gave the owners and players a taste of what the fans will do. Most don't sympathize with multi-million dollar athletes and greedy owners.

If they strike and these great seasons are washed away, then MLB may never return to full strength. I say, play ball and negotiate at the end of the year. It's the only way to ensure to they don't cripple the game forever.

## ITR

ITR hours of operation are Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. - noon, thru August. ITR is closed on Sundays and holidays. For further information, stop by ITR, building 6019, across from PX, or call 239-5614/4415.

### Renaissance Festival

Visit the 16th century village of Canterbury at the Renaissance Festival in Kansas City, Aug. 31 - Oct. 14, on weekends only except for Labor Day and Columbus Day.

The Fest is situated on nearly 16 acres of shaded lanes. Browse and shop from over 160 artisans and their handcrafted wares.

Entertainment awaits with over 13 stages, as well as live interaction with the colorful characters roaming the lanes of the village! This year brings the return of Robin Hood and his merry men! Be a spectator at the Ultimate

Gladiator Games! Witness live jousting in the dynamic new jousting arena.

Discount tickets are available through ITR, adults, \$12; children age 5-12, \$5.50.

### Kansas City Chiefs

There is a special ticket promotion for the first two games of the season. See Houston on tomorrow and St. Louis on Aug. 30 in action at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City.

Tickets are \$55/single (regularly priced \$65) without transportation and \$65/single with transportation (regularly priced \$80), or purchase two and get the third ticket FREE. Tickets are still available for other games. Stop by ITR for schedule.

### McCain Auditorium

Tickets are available for all performances at Kansas State University's McCain Auditorium

through ITR. Stop by and pick up a complete performance schedule.

### Upcoming Events

Sept. 27 Modern Mandolin Quartet  
Oct. 5 Venice Baroque Orchestra  
Oct. 13 La Boheme  
Oct. 18 Kansas City Ballet  
Oct. 23 South Pacific

### Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center

Located in Hutchinson, the Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center is quickly becoming the most comprehensive space museum in the world. It is not what you'd expect to find on the open prairies of Kansas. And, that's the point exactly.

From the jaw-dropping Hall of Space Museum and incredible IMAX Dome Theater to the million-dollar multimedia Planetarium, the Cosmosphere is an all-day, all-ages adventure. Hold on

tight. You're go for lift-off! Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$11 for children ages 4-12.

### Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun Recognizes Service to Community - In appreciation for valuable service to our community and country, Worlds of Fun will celebrate Public Safety Days, Aug. 18 - 25.

During this time, fire and police department personnel, paramedics and military personnel, active duty, National Guard and reserves, will be admitted to the park for free.

Men and women of these public service branches simply need to present their IDs at guest relations, located at the Main Entrance, to be admitted to Worlds of Fun free.

Discount tickets for members of their families may be purchased through ITR.

### K-State planning to salute Fort Riley at football game

By Emily O'Connor  
K-State Intern

Kansas State University will salute Fort Riley and its soldiers when the K-State Wildcats take on the Eastern Illinois Panthers Sept. 14, 1:10 p.m.

According to Teresa Mayes, Fort Riley Information, Ticketing and Reserve office, tickets are being offered to soldiers at a special discounted rate this year.

"Right now we have 200 tickets to the game available for \$16," Mayes said. "This half price rate has been made available for soldiers so that they can go out and enjoy the game."

Special Fort Riley displays will be showcased in and around stadium grounds on game day, according to Scott Price, Fort Riley community relations officer. The Garrison flag will be unfolded on the field by soldiers. The Fort Riley Honor Guard, dismounted, will be posting the colors for the game, as well as having an encampment by the stadium including horses, a wagon, tack and a display. A static display of various types of military equipment will be outside the stadium also, for fans to view. Blackhawk helicopters will fly over the stadium on game day.

To purchase your discounted tickets for the game, stop by the ITR office, building 6918, just north of the PX, or call 239-5614 or 239-4415.

The ITR office is open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. - noon.

### 2002 Kansas State Football Schedule

Aug. 31 **Western Kentucky, 6:10 p.m.**  
Sept. 7 **Louisiana-Monroe, 6:10 p.m.**  
Sept. 14 **Eastern Illinois, 1:10 p.m.**  
(Fort Riley/K-State Day)

Sept. 21 **Southern California**  
Sept. 28 Open  
Oct. 5 at Colorado  
Oct. 12 **Oklahoma State**  
Oct. 19 **Texas**  
Oct. 26 at Baylor  
Nov. 2 at Kansas  
Nov. 9 **Iowa State**  
Nov. 16 **Nebraska**  
Nov. 23 at Missouri

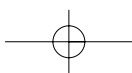
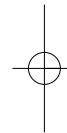
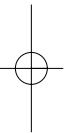
\*Home games in bold.

ROOM GROUP EXPRESS  
2 x 5.5"  
Black Only  
Room Group Pick up from 7-28

FIRESTONE / BRIDGESTONE  
2 x 4"  
Black Only  
w/1cm w. spurgeon 8/21-26+8/23



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NFI  
6 x 21.25"  
Black Only  
YELLOW/Save-a-Lot